



NATIONAL  
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STATISTICS  
SERVICE

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# WEATHER & CROPS



**Month: December 2010**

**Number: 39**

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## WEATHER CONDITIONS AND CROP SUMMARY FOR DECEMBER, 2010

Heavy snow covered many areas of the state. Unusually cold daytime and nighttime temperatures kept snow on the ground. In some areas, as the snow melted, extremely muddy conditions were prevalent. Wheat that was planted in November had slowed development due to below normal temperatures during December. Field activities during the month included soil sampling, applying low rates of nitrogen and pesticides to a few small grain fields and applying lime and potash for spring crops. Greenhouse owners began to prepare their greenhouse for tobacco plants.

### CROP CONDITION PERCENT

Crop	Very Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
Livestock	2	11	31	45	11
Small Grain and Winter Grazing Crops	0	4	36	55	5

### FORAGE PERCENT OBTAINED FROM PASTURES

Crop	This Month	Last Year
Beef Cattle Forage % Obtained from Pastures	12	20
Milk Cow Forage % Obtained from Pastures	3	7
Sheep Forage % Obtained from Pastures	17	18

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**Virginia Cooperative Extension  
Service**



**Virginia Tech**

**Virginia Cooperative Extension**  
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**Virginia State University**



**VIRGINIA STATE UNIVERSITY**

## VIRGINIA WEEKLY WEATHER SUMMARY FOR THE WEEK ENDING JANUARY 2, 2011

City	Temperature						Precipitation				
	Avg. max.	Avg. min.	High max.	Low min.	Avg.	Avg. dep. from normal *	Last Week	Since Dec 1	Dec. 1 dep. from normal *	Jan. 1 to date	Jan. 1 dep. from normal *
Lynchburg	45	24	58	18	35	0	0.17	2.26	-0.96	00.13	14.00
Norfolk	44	25	63	19	35	-5	1.19	2.97	-0.06	00.02	3.00
Richmond	45	27	61	22	36	-1	0.18	3.26	0.13	00.04	5.00
Roanoke	43	26	58	21	35	-1	0.06	1.75	-1.11	00.05	6.00
Wash/Dulles	44	25	57	20	34	1	0.02	1.49	-1.61	00.01	2.00

### REPORTER COMMENTS BY COUNTY

Comments are based on comments reported by extension agents, farmers, commodity specialists, and other knowledgeable individuals.

#### NORTHERN

##### **FREDERICK (Jeanette R. Smith)**

Frederick is still feeling the drought affects, moisture is slowly rising in the soil. We have received some snowfall. The temperatures have been in 30's to 40's. No grazing at this time. Producers are still feeding. Feeding started in June.

##### **ROCKINGHAM (John Welsh)**

Recent thawing weather has removed any remaining snow cover and produced a healthy crop of mud.

#### WESTERN

##### **AUGUSTA (Tom Stanley)**

Two snow events mid-month dropping a total of approximately 8 inches and cold temperatures were the highlights of December's weather. Colder than normal temperatures kept the northern slopes snow covered much of the month but above freezing temperatures and light rain melted most of the snow New Year's Eve. More precipitation is needed.

##### **ROANOKE (Sheri Dorn)**

Roanoke is experiencing unusually cold daytime and nighttime temperatures as well as an early snow season. Monthly precipitation = 1.26"

##### **ROCKBRIDGE (Tom Stanley)**

December was cold but deceptively dry. A total of approximately 5 inches of snow fell mid-month, and cold temperatures kept the northern slopes snow covered until New Year's Eve when above freezing temperatures and light rain melted the remaining snow. Field conditions are muddy at December's end but we are in need of additional moisture.

#### CENTRAL

##### **CAROLINE (McGann Saphir)**

Moisture levels are very good to excess. Pastures are very good, as are hayfields. Concentrated animal areas around feed bunks, water and barns are very muddy. This takes a toll on animals over time. Small grain crops are looking very good. Farmers have applied sequential fertilizer applications to accessible fields. This will continue through March and April.

##### **HANOVER (Jim Tate)**

December was unusually cold and snowy with two major snows hitting our area. Freezing conditions and cold temperatures have made feeding and watering livestock problematic. Several instances of calves wandering out on to pond ice causing problems. Looks like it is going to be another long and cold winter.

#### EASTERN

##### **ESSEX (Keith Balderson)**

December was cold and snow-covered for most of the last half of the month. Field activities early in the month included soil sampling, applying low rates of nitrogen and pesticides to a few small grain fields and applying lime and potash for spring crops. Many growers also made seed and other input purchases during the month. Some growers also attended private pesticide applicator workshops.

##### **MIDDLESEX (David Moore)**

A cold and snowy December is coming to an end. Ground moisture is back to about normal after a hot and dry summer. Small grains like the snow cover. Some producers have made a fall N application with insecticide and herbicide to spur tiller growth in wheat and barley. Most folks are enjoying the weather and holidays as they make plans for next season. Commodity prices are volatile at the moment and some producers are taking advantage of that by contracting, etc.

## REPORTER COMMENTS BY COUNTY (continued)

Comments are based on comments reported by extension agents, farmers, commodity specialists, and other knowledgeable individuals.

### SOUTHEASTERN

#### **BRUNSWICK (Cynthia L. Gregg)**

Many fall calving producers bred heifers and cows during the December snows. The snowy days caused producers to take hay to the fields for livestock. Ice in several locations made checking watering sources essential. Small grains got some much needed moisture. Many folks were deer hunting during the past month. Some producers spent time in their shops working on equipment. Greenhouse owners have been getting greenhouses ready for tobacco plants and had to have heat on to avoid collapse with the snow pack.

#### **MECKLENBURG (Taylor Clarke)**

Wheat planted during and after the 2nd week of November has been slow to develop because of below normal temperatures during December. This has also slowed development of earlier planted wheat and barley.

#### **PRINCE GEORGE (Scott Reiter)**

The three snows in the last three weeks have reduced grazing and observation of small grain crops. Farmers are busy marketing 2010 and 2011 crops with the recent run in commodity prices. End of year purchases and tax planning have also been active the past few weeks.

#### **SOUTHAMPTON (John Rudy)**

Snow the past 2 weeks have halted any field work. Fall seeded crops were in need of the moisture that we received in the snow. Soil moisture is now adequate. Pastures are still suffering from the dry summer and fall. Feeding of hay is the norm.

#### **SURRY (Glenn Slade)**

Cold weather and snow has stopped almost all field work for December. Only a few soybeans still left in the fields. Yields on all crops were disappointing. Most farmers are catching up on shop work, paperwork, and hunting. Happy New Year!

### SOUTHEASTERN (*continued*)

#### **SUSSEX (Kelvin Wells, Sussex ANR Agent )**

Snow fell over our area causing a winter wonder land. With cotton and grain prices at profitable levels growers are trying to decide what to plant in 2011. With fuel and fertilizer prices increasing growers will put the pencil to work and see what works the best for their operation. Others are enjoying the last few days of deer hunting.

### SOUTHWESTERN

#### **DICKENSON (Brad Mullins)**

Most snow ever recorded in December in Dickenson County and the third coldest on record.

#### **SMYTH (Andy Overbay)**

Unusually high snow totals have built soil moisture back into the good range. Fast melt off could produce flooding in low areas .

### SOUTHERN

#### **HENRY (Melanie Barrow)**

Snow on December 16 of 3-5" and December 25 of 4-6" throughout county. Topsoil, at this time is still at a saturated state.



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